

12 January 1955

TO : 801  
FROM : 88  
SUBJECT: "Orientierung No. 72"  
REFERENCE: Your Memo No. 10690 of 23 Dec 54.

As already stated orally the concerned "Orientierung" quotes only an article of the "Rheinische Merkur". The author of this article is not connected with us.

Drafting this issue of the "Orientierung", it has been a matter of consideration whether the reproved paragraph should be omitted. Mr. FOERTSCH thought this not to be necessary because the nature of the various quoted newspaper articles is known to our people. It goes without saying that we are not interested in any respect to undermine the reputation of the American soldier, while the concept of German foreign politics is a close alliance with the United States. I think there is no danger that this quoted paragraph could be misinterpreted among our people.

As I pointed out in our last conversation, it is not our business to mix up with the matters of our future defense ministry. On the other side it is natural that all former German professional soldiers are emotionally beholding the present development of ideas in this sector. We should have a good democratic army under an effective parliamentary control, but an army which is trained to fight hard. I think it would only be necessary to take as leading principles the latest training regulations of the American Army instead of the quixotic ideas of some young men who may have the best will but no practical peace-time experiences in training and operations. I may point this out only as my private opinion because it may explain to you why so many former German officers of the older generation are worrying so much, even when they are not personally involved. I think we have only two years more time, then it will show whether or not in the long range Europe will get lost to Communism. Therefore, everything should be done not to waste this time.

Under no circumstances the development of the world situation since the last three years gives any reason for an over-optimistic prospect.

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